

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the remarks below. Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended and Claim 16 has been added. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 can be found at page 3, line 13 to line 24 and for Claim 16 can be found at page 4, line 27 to page 5, line 2.

Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Timm, Klipper et al and Corte et al '866. The rejection should be withdrawn in view of the amendments above and comments below.

It is well established that to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the USPTO must satisfy all of the following requirements. First, the prior art relied upon, coupled with the knowledge generally available in the art at the time of the invention, must contain some suggestion or incentive that would have motivated the skilled artisan to modify a reference or to combine references. *In re Fine*, 5 USPQ2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Second, the proposed modification must have had a reasonable expectation of success, as determined from the vantage point of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. *Amgen v. Chugai Pharmaceutical Co.* 18 USPQ 2d 1016, 1023 (Fed Cir, 1991), *cert. denied* 502 U.S. 856 (1991). Third, the prior art reference or combination of references must teach or suggest all of the limitations of the claims. *In re Wilson*, 165 USPQ 494, 496, (CCPA 1970). In view of the modifications above, the claims are believed to be allowable.

Claim 1 has been amended and is related to process for preparing monodisperse anion exchangers comprising

- (a) reacting monomer droplets made from at least one monovinylaromatic compound including styrene and at least one polyvinylaromatic compound to give a monodisperse, crosslinked bead polymer, wherein the polyvinylaromatic compound is an amount from about 1% to 20% by weight based on the mixture with the monomer or mixture with other monomers, wherein the monomer droplets include initiators or mixtures of initiators in an amount of about 0.05% to 2.5% by weight based on the mixture with the monomer or mixture with other monomers,

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- (b) amidomethylating the monodisperse, crosslinked bead polymer from step (a) with phthalimide or methylphthalimide,
- (c) converting the amidomethylated bead polymer from step (b) to an aminomethylated bead polymer, and
- (d) alkylating the aminomethylated bead polymer from step (c).

Neither Timm, Corte et al or Klipper et al, either alone or in combination, teach all of the elements of Applicants' invention, including "reacting monomer droplets made from at least one monovinylaromatic compound including styrene and at least one polyvinylaromatic compound to give a monodisperse, crosslinked bead polymer,

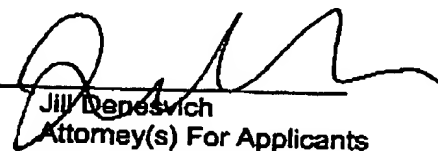
wherein the polyvinylaromatic compound is an amount from about 1% to 20% by weight based on the mixture with the monomer or mixture with other monomers,

wherein the monomer droplets include initiators or mixtures of initiators in an amount of about 0.05% to 2.5% by weight based on the mixture with the monomer or mixture with other monomers."

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of all the pending claims is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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